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EXAMINER

ELAHEE, MD S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2697

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/741,157

Applicant(s)

NAKATSU, MAKOTO

Examiner

Md S Elahee

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 05.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

1. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 7, line 17, the phrase "wherein said mailbox response message control table" lacks antecedent basis because it appears that the "mailbox response message control table" should be "response message control table" according to claim 5.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okawa et al. (JP Patent No. 61-294961) and in view of Kotsuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,974).

Regarding claim 1, Okawa discloses a voice storage device for storing analog voice (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'voice' reads on the claim 'audio', 'device' reads on the claim 'unit' and 'analog voice' reads on the claim 'audio data').

Okawa further discloses main controller for reading out the voice data stored in the voice storage device (Constitution; fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'audio data controller', 'voice data' reads on the claim 'audio data' and 'voice storage device' reads on the claim 'audio storage unit').

Okawa further discloses main controller for controlling the voice storage device (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller' and 'voice storage device' reads on the claim 'audio storage unit').

Okawa further discloses network control section for connecting the voice storage device to a network including a telephone frame (Constitution; fig.1, fig.2; page no. 3, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'network control section' reads on the claim 'network interface', 'voice data' reads on the claim 'audio data', 'voice storage device' reads on the claim 'audio storage apparatus' and 'telephone frame' reads on the claim 'telephone line and an extension line').

Okawa further discloses stored voice data is reproduced (Constitution; page no. 4, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph; 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'audio information corresponding to the caller information').

Okawa fails to teach "a caller information detector for detecting caller information from an input signal incoming from the network". Kotsuki teaches a caller ID detector for detecting caller information from an input signal incoming from the network (fig.1, fig.2, fig.5; col. 4, lines 38-46; 'ID' reads on the claim 'information'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa to allow a caller information detector for detecting caller information as taught by Kotsuki. The motivation for the modification is to have caller information detector for detecting calling party's name, telephone number etc.

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okawa et al. (JP Patent No. 61-294961) and in view of Kotsuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,974) and further in view of Hidetoshi (JP Patent No. 63-261948).

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Regarding claim 2, Okawa further discloses main controller reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'audio information corresponding to the caller information' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki fails to teach reproducing the audio information when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal. Hidetoshi teaches reproducing voice signal to hear it (abstract; fig.3; 'voice signal' reads on the claim 'audio information' and 'hear it' reads on the claim 'when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki to allow a reproduction of the audio information when there is a request for hearing it as taught by Hidetoshi. The motivation for the modification is to have the request in order to get the information about the caller from the storage device.

5. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okawa et al. (JP Patent No. 61-294961) and in view of Kotsuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,974) and further in view of Hirosawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,347,646) and further in view of Yoshiaki et al. (JP Patent No. 5-176060) and further in view of Hidetoshi (JP Patent No. 63-261948) .

Regarding claim 3, Okawa in view of Kotsuki fails to teach "a group control table registering plural telephone numbers in one group". Hirosawa teaches authorized user table entering telephone numbers (fig.4, fig.5; col.8, lines 14-37; 'authorized user table' reads on the claim 'group control table', 'entering' reads on the claim 'registering' and 'telephone numbers' reads on the claim 'plural telephone numbers in one group'). Thus, it would have been obvious

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to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki to allow a group control table registering plural telephone numbers as taught by Hirosawa. The motivation for the modification is to have the group control table in order to provide telephone numbers for different attributes.

Okawa further discloses main controller when transmitting data to in the network control section and receive data from the telephone network, reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'network control section' reads on the claim 'network interface', 'telephone network' reads on the claim 'network', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'audio information corresponding to the caller information' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Hirosawa further fails to teach "reproduces the main guidance". Yoshiaki teaches outputting of the voice guidance (fig.2; detailed, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph; 'outputting' reads on the claim 'reproduces', and 'voice guidance' reads on the claim 'main guidance'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Hirosawa to allow a main guidance as taught by Yoshiaki. The motivation for the modification is to have the main guidance in order to instruct the user.

However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Hirosawa in view of Yoshiaki fails to teach reproducing the audio information when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal. Hidetoshi teaches reproducing voice signal to hear it (abstract; fig.3; 'voice signal' reads on the claim 'audio information' and 'hear it' reads on the claim 'when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of

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the input signal'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Hirosawa in view of Yoshiaki to allow a reproduction of the audio information when there is a request for hearing it as taught by Hidetoshi. The motivation for the modification is to have the request in order to get the information about the caller from the storage device.

Okawa further discloses main controller reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'audio information depending on said group' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Yoshiaki further in view of Hidetoshi further fails to teach that an audio message refers to the group control table, and when the caller information belongs to a specific group. Hirosawa teaches a message corresponding the authorized user table and the authorized user information belongs to the operators (fig.4, fig.5; col.8, lines 14-37; 'an audio message' reads on the claim 'message', 'authorized user table' reads on the claim 'group control table', 'authorized user' reads on the claim 'caller' and 'operators' reads on the claim 'specific group'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Yoshiaki further in view of Hidetoshi to allow a group control table having the audio message referring to it as taught by Hirosawa. The motivation for the modification is to have the group control table in order to provide telephone numbers for specific callers.

6. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okawa et al. (JP Patent No. 61-294961) and in view of Kotsuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,974) and further in

view of Morganstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,249,219) and further in view of Hirosawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,347,646) and further in view of Yoshiaki et al. (JP Patent No. 5-176060) and further in view of Hidetoshi (JP Patent No. 63-261948).

Regarding claim 4, Okawa in view of Kotsuki fails to teach "a response message control table for assigning each caller information with a response message of each mailbox". Morganstein teaches a call flow control table for assigning a code for message for the voice mailbox (abstract; fig.3b, col.11, lines 65-68, col.12, lines 1-9, 29-59; 'call flow control table' reads on the claim 'response message control table', 'a code for message' reads on the claim 'each caller information with a response message' and 'voice mailbox' reads on the claim 'each mailbox'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki to have a response message control table as taught by Morganstein. The motivation for the modification is to have the response message control table in order to deposit or retrieve the message for the particular mailbox.

Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further fails to teach "a group control table registering plural telephone numbers in one group". Hirosawa teaches authorized user table entering telephone numbers (fig.4, fig.5; col.8, lines 14-37; 'authorized user table' reads on the claim 'group control table', 'entering' reads on the claim 'registering' and 'telephone numbers' reads on the claim 'plural telephone numbers in one group'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein to allow a group control table registering plural telephone numbers as taught by Hirosawa. The motivation for the modification is to have the group control table in order to provide telephone numbers for different attributes.



Okawa discloses a voice storage device for storing analog voice (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'voice' reads on the claim 'audio', 'device' reads on the claim 'unit' and 'analog voice' reads on the claim 'audio data'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Hirosawa further fails to teach storing of main guidance. Yoshiaki teaches the voice guidance (fig.2; detailed, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph; 'voice guidance' reads on the claim 'storing of main guidance'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Hirosawa to allow a main guidance as taught by Yoshiaki. The motivation for the modification is to have the main guidance in order to instruct the user.

Okawa further discloses main controller when transmitting data to in the network control section and receive data from the telephone network, reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'network control section' reads on the claim 'network interface', 'telephone network' reads on the claim 'network', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'audio information corresponding to the caller information' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Hirosawa further fails to teach "reproduces the main guidance". Yoshiaki teaches outputting of the voice guidance (fig.2; detailed, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph; 'outputting' reads on the claim 'reproduces', and 'voice guidance' reads on the claim 'main guidance'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Hirosawa to allow a main guidance as

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taught by Yoshiaki. The motivation for the modification is to have the main guidance in order to instruct the user.

Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Hirosawa further in view of Yoshiaki fails to teach reproducing the audio information when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal. Hidetoshi teaches reproducing voice signal to hear it (abstract; fig.3; 'voice signal' reads on the claim 'audio information' and 'hear it' reads on the claim 'when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Hirosawa further in view of Yoshiaki to allow a reproduction of the audio information when there is a request for hearing it as taught by Hidetoshi. The motivation for the modification is to have the request in order to get the information about the caller from the storage device.

Okawa further discloses main controller reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'response message corresponding to the caller information' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller').

Okawa further discloses main controller reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'audio information depending on said group' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Yoshiaki further in view of

Hidetoshi further fails to teach that an audio message refers to the group control table, and when the caller information belongs to a specific group. Hirose teaches a message corresponding the authorized user table and the authorized user information belongs to the operators (fig.4, fig.5; col.8, lines 14-37; 'an audio message' reads on the claim 'message', 'authorized user table' reads on the claim 'group control table', 'authorized user' reads on the claim 'caller' and 'operators' reads on the claim 'specific group'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Yoshiaki further in view of Hidetoshi to allow a group control table having the audio message referring to it as taught by Hirose. The motivation for the modification is to have the group control table in order to provide telephone numbers for specific callers.

7. Claims 5-9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Okawa et al. (JP Patent No. 61-294961) and in view of Kotsuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,020,974) and further in view of Morganstein et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,249,219) and further in view of Yoshiaki et al. (JP Patent No. 5-176060) and further in view of Hidetoshi (JP Patent No. 63-261948).

Regarding claim 5, Okawa in view of Kotsuki fails to teach "a response message control table for assigning each caller information with a response message of each mailbox". Morganstein teaches a call flow control table for assigning a code for message for the voice mailbox (abstract; fig.3b, col.11, lines 65-68, col.12, lines 1-9, 29-59; 'call flow control table' reads on the claim 'response message control table', 'a code for message' reads on the claim 'each caller information with a response message' and 'voice mailbox' reads on the claim 'each mailbox'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the

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invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki to have a response message control table as taught by Morganstein. The motivation for the modification is to have the response message control table in order to deposit or retrieve the message for the particular mailbox.

Okawa discloses a voice storage device for storing analog voice (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'voice' reads on the claim 'audio', 'device' reads on the claim 'unit' and 'analog voice' reads on the claim 'audio data'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further fails to teach storing of main guidance. Yoshiaki teaches the voice guidance (fig.2; detailed, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph; 'voice guidance' reads on the claim 'storing of main guidance'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein to allow a main guidance as taught by Yoshiaki. The motivation for the modification is to have the main guidance in order to instruct the user.

Okawa further discloses main controller when transmitting data to in the network control section and receive data from the telephone network, reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'network control section' reads on the claim 'network interface', 'telephone network' reads on the claim 'network', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'audio information corresponding to the caller information' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further fails to teach "reproduces the main guidance". Yoshiaki teaches outputting of the voice guidance (fig.2; detailed, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph; 'outputting' reads on the claim 'reproduces', and 'voice guidance' reads on the claim 'main guidance'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

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art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein to allow a main guidance as taught by Yoshiaki. The motivation for the modification is to have the main guidance in order to instruct the user.

Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Yoshiaki fails to teach reproducing the audio information when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal. Hidetoshi teaches reproducing voice signal to hear it (abstract; fig.3; 'voice signal' reads on the claim 'audio information' and 'hear it' reads on the claim 'when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Yoshiaki to allow a reproduction of the audio information when there is a request for hearing it as taught by Hidetoshi. The motivation for the modification is to have the request in order to get the information about the caller from the storage device.

Okawa further discloses main controller reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'response message corresponding to the caller information' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller').

Regarding claim 6, Okawa in view of Kotsuki fails to teach "a mailbox response message controller for assigning each caller information with a response message of each mailbox". Morganstein teaches a call flow control table for assigning a code for message for the voice mailbox (abstract; fig.3b, col.11, lines 65-68, col.12, lines 1-9, 29-59; 'call flow control table' reads on the claim 'mailbox response message controller', 'a code for message' reads on the

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claim 'each caller information with a response message' and 'voice mailbox' reads on the claim 'each mailbox'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki to have a mailbox response message control table as taught by Morganstein. The motivation for the modification is to have the mailbox response message control table in order to deposit or retrieve the message for the particular mailbox.

Okawa discloses a voice storage device for storing analog voice (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'voice' reads on the claim 'audio', 'device' reads on the claim 'unit' and 'analog voice' reads on the claim 'audio data'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further fails to teach storing of main guidance. Yoshiaki teaches the voice guidance (fig.2; detailed, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph; 'voice guidance' reads on the claim 'storing of main guidance'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein to allow a main guidance as taught by Yoshiaki. The motivation for the modification is to have the main guidance in order to instruct the user.

Okawa further discloses main controller when transmitting data to in the network control section and receive data from the telephone network, reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'main controller' reads on the claim 'central controller', 'network control section' reads on the claim 'network interface', 'telephone network' reads on the claim 'network', 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'audio information corresponding to the caller information' and 'communication unit' reads on the claim 'audio data controller'). However, Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further fails to

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teach “reproduces the main guidance”. Yoshiaki teaches outputting of the voice guidance (fig.2; detailed, 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph; ‘outputting’ reads on the claim ‘reproduces’, and ‘voice guidance’ reads on the claim ‘main guidance’). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein to allow a main guidance as taught by Yoshiaki. The motivation for the modification is to have the main guidance in order to instruct the user.

Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Yoshiaki fails to teach reproducing the audio information when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal. Hidetoshi teaches reproducing voice signal to hear it (abstract; fig.3; ‘voice signal’ reads on the claim ‘audio information’ and ‘hear it’ reads on the claim ‘when it is judged there is a request for hearing of audio information on the basis of the input signal’). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki further in view of Morganstein further in view of Yoshiaki to allow a reproduction of the audio information when there is a request for hearing it as taught by Hidetoshi. The motivation for the modification is to have the request in order to get the information about the caller from the storage device.

Okawa further discloses main controller reproducing the stored voice data through the communication unit (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; ‘main controller’ reads on the claim ‘central controller’, ‘stored voice data’ reads on the claim ‘designated response message assigned to the caller information’ and ‘communication unit’ reads on the claim ‘audio data controller’).

Regarding claim 7, Okawa in view of Kotsuki fails to teach “said mailbox response message control table includes a response message assigned to a group of plural pieces of caller

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information". Morganstein teaches a call flow control table for including a code to deposit a message for the voice mailbox number (abstract; fig.3b, col.11, lines 65-68, col.12, lines 1-9, 29-59; 'call flow control table' reads on the claim 'mailbox response message controller' and 'a message for the voice mailbox number' reads on the claim 'a response message assigned to a group of plural pieces of caller information'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki to have a mailbox response message control table as taught by Morganstein. The motivation for the modification is to have the mailbox response message control table in order to deposit or retrieve the message for the particular mailbox.

Regarding claim 8, Okawa in view of Kotsuki fails to teach "said mailbox response message control table includes a response message assigned to a group of plural pieces of caller information". Morganstein teaches a call flow control table for assigning a code to store a message for the voice mailbox number (abstract; fig.3b; col.2, lines 35-42, col.11, lines 65-68, col.12, lines 1-9, 29-59; 'call flow control table' reads on the claim 'mailbox response message controller', 'to deposit' reads on the claim 'includes' and 'a message for the voice mailbox number' reads on the claim 'a response message assigned to a group of plural pieces of caller information'). Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Okawa in view of Kotsuki to have a mailbox response message control table as taught by Morganstein. The motivation for the modification is to have the mailbox response message control table in order to deposit or retrieve the message for the particular mailbox.



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Regarding claim 9, Okawa further discloses reproducing the stored voice data without an assignment of a mailbox (fig.2; page no. 3, 3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph; 'stored voice data' reads on the claim 'designated response message').

***Conclusion***

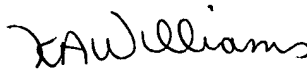
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alam Elahee whose telephone number is (703) 305-4822. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon to Fri from 9:00am to 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (703)305-4717. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9600.

M. E.

MD SHAFIUL ALAM ELAHEE  
January 27, 2003

  
Kimberly A. Williams  
Primary Examiner  
~~Technology Center 2700~~